In the Claims:

1-46. (Cancelled).

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to:

construct a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47 A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network:

an audio package builder/export tool adapted to:

access the centralized database;

construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway wherein the audio package an audio segment may be located; and

export the audio package to the gateway,

wherein said index file is adapted to map an audio identifier[[s]] of the audio segment[[s]] to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway over a packet based network.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said system is adapted to operate on a provisioning server.

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52. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein each of said audio segments comprises a unique audio identifier.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to present a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio segments file comprises a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47 A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:
        a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;
        an audio package builder/export tool adapted to:
                access the centralized database;
                construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
                construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway wherein the audio package an audio segment may be located; and
                export the audio package to the gateway,
        wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database by performing one or more of the following steps:
        add audio segments to the audio package;
        delete audio segments from the audio package; and
        lock the audio package.

56. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47 A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

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a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

an audio package builder/export tool adapted to:

access the centralized database;

construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway wherein the audio package an audio segment may be located; and

export the audio package to the gateway.

wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to track a version number of any audio packages created with the audio package builder/export tool.

57. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to export the audio package to the gateway by preliminarily exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to export the audio package to the gateway by exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 further comprising provisioning the centralized database with audio segments.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 further comprising constructing a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

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62. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 59 further comprising~~ A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

    accessing audio segments within a centralized database;

    constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

    constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located;

    exporting the audio package to the gateway; and

    mapping an audio identifier[[s]] of the audio segment[[s]] to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package over a packet based network.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 further comprising associating each of said audio segments with a unique audio identifier.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 further comprising presenting a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 wherein constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database comprises constructing an audio package from a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

67. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 59~~ A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

    accessing audio segments within a centralized database;

    constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

    constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located; and

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exporting the audio package to the gateway.

wherein said constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized data base comprises one or more of the following steps:

adding audio segments to the audio package;

deleting audio segments from the audio package; and

locking the audio package.

68. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 59 further comprising~~ A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

accessing audio segments within a centralized database:

constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database:

constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located:

exporting the audio package to the gateway; and

tracking a version number of any audio packages constructed.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[59]] 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

71. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway so that the gateway may selectively present the audio segments within the audio package to end users.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool constructs and index file as a distinct data structure within the audio package.

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